



## Forty Actions to Boost the Implementation of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians Strategy and Action Plan

### Cross-cutting issues:

1. A prioritisation of the actions entailed in the **RAE Strategy and Action Plan** (RAESAP) should be undertaken through annual work plans including budgetary allocations by line ministries and municipalities.
2. The **Action Plan Technical Working Group** for the Implementation of the Strategy for the Integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities (**APTWG**) should step up its activities to coordinate more efficiently the allocation of resources and to monitor the implementation of the priorities. The APTWG should inform and follow up with the relevant authorities on their role without further delay.
3. **Municipalities** have a key role to play on RAE inclusion. Municipalities and line ministries have to step up their cooperation in this regard, in close cooperation with the RAE. **APTWG** should provide orientation to municipalities on the prioritisation and/or implementation of the proposed RAESAP priorities.
4. The **Community-based facilitators, community leaders and families** have a crucial role to play for confidence-building, education, employment and social services, including in preventing early marriages. The recognition of the facilitators by municipalities is essential.
5. **Awareness, transparency, participation and inclusiveness** are crucial for the implementation of the RAESAP. Media campaigns should be launched to raise awareness on the rights of the RAE targeting the central institutions, municipalities and the public at large and to encourage the RAE's engagement with the authorities.
6. **Access to Justice without discrimination** is crucial to achieve RAE inclusion; hence resources have to be allocated by the government to support the legal aid commission and facilitate the RAE access to Justice.
7. **Data collection** should be ensured by the APTWG to annually review the RAESAP priorities; a system for segregated data collection in all governmental institutions, agencies and municipalities shall be established.
8. A unique and routine **monitoring and reporting system** has to be established by the government incorporating standardized instruments and uniform procedures on data collection;
9. Among the RAE, **women and girls** deserve a particular attention.
10. Kosovo should envisage applying for the **Roma Decade** membership.

## **Civil registration**

1. The birth and civil registration of RAE has to be proactively completed and updated by the Municipal Civil Status Offices, with the assistance of the municipal officer dealing with RAE issues. The Review Boards to facilitate the registration for vulnerable communities without documents ("real life cases") should be activated.
2. RAE registration's certificates should be made free during campaigns designed to address the registration of RAE citizens.
3. The new civil status legislation should be adopted swiftly including sub-laws and administrative instructions on re-registration and late registration. Training has to be provided to civil register's officers in all municipalities to implement the new legal framework.
4. Routine registration and checking systems should be established in all municipalities with the support of the Civil Status Offices and the central Civil Registration Agency.
5. Civil registration of repatriated children has to be systematically carried out.

## **Education**

1. Measures to ensure school attendance, inclusion such as free and simplified registration, awareness campaigns and the effective attendance monitoring should be adopted. Those measures should target children who either enrolled or never did it.
2. Kosovo should fight against drop-out, including by implementing the Action Plan Against Drop Out from School and by identifying the needs and number of the pupils who dropped out from school, girls in particular. Early-childhood care, pre-school activities, catch-up classes and scholarships are important tools to facilitate school attendance and reduce the drop-out.
3. Parents' and mediators' key role has to be recognised and reinforced.
4. Municipalities should fight against prejudices and discrimination at school, notably by organising workshops for teachers in the schools.
5. The Ministry for Education, Science and Technology and the municipalities should implement the Romani curricula as of September 2011 and distribute the relevant textbooks. Romani curricula teachers should be adequately trained.
6. Tailor-made trainings including language and literacy courses for RAE pupils and adults should be provided.
7. Quotas set aside for RAE students should be effectively used.
8. International donors support to education should be increased.

## **Employment**

1. Substantial efforts have to be undertaken to recruit RAE in the public sector, notably in schools as teachers and school assistants as well as in municipal services and public utilities.

2. The Ministry of Labour should further implement the public employment services' capacity-building work plan to improve their work with marginalised groups.
3. RAE NGOs should facilitate the coordination among municipal/regional social, vocational education centres and employment centres with a view to improve RAE access to market information and employment.
4. NGOs and the employment centres have to facilitate the bridges between RAE communities and private entrepreneurs; on-the-job trainings could be jointly developed.
5. Fiscal incentives and income generation measures including small grants and public-private partnerships should be established to facilitate the employment of RAE and the launch of new RAE businesses.

### **Social and health care**

1. "Vulnerability mapping" to identify higher concentration and precise needs of vulnerable groups should be carried out by the Ministry of Health.
2. The social benefits' scheme should be reviewed and the provision of a diversified social cash assistance scheme to fight against child poverty should be introduced. The budget share for health purposes should be increased. Kosovo should implement the primary health care/family medicine.
3. Awareness-raising campaigns to inform RAE about medical factors should be carried out by the authorities and NGOs with the support of community-based facilitators.
4. Kosovo should enhance its efforts to mitigate the environmental risk factor (lead and other contaminations) notably by implementing the childhood lead poisoning case management protocol and by making it financially sustainable.

### **Housing**

1. The camps in Osterode and Leposavic should be swiftly closed.
2. Kosovo's property rights' coordinator within the Office of the Prime Minister should be appointed.
3. Legal cases for the return of RAE real property should be prioritised by the courts and the Kosovo Property Agency; highest priority for RAE repatriated families should be given.
4. The provision of land to durably establish legal settlements and/or legalise the currently 174 so-called "illegal settlements" should be ensured by municipalities;
5. The informal settlements should be included in municipal spatial plans.
6. Kosovo should adopt the informal settlement strategy with no further delay.
7. Support should be provided by NGOs to municipalities in developing and implementing social and housing improvement schemes for the RAE.
8. Housing/return-related needs before receiving repatriated persons should be planned and identified by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.
9. The allocation of land for return purposes should be systematically ensured for an at least forty-year period.